

Message Text

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21

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USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1662

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUNSAFE

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ATHENS 8726

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ATHENS 8723

1. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' REPLY (SEPTTEL) TO TURKISH
PREMIER DEMIREL'S COMMENTS ON THE DODECANNENE ISLANDS
(REFTTEL) AND DEVELOPMENTS AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)
DEBATE ON THE AEGEAN WERE THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS IN THE NEWS
TODAY (AUGUST 21). PRESENTED BY THE GREEK MEDIA AS A FIRM
BUT MEASURED RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS BY DEMIREL REPORTEDLY
QUESTIONING THE LEGITIMACY OF GREEK SOVERIGNTY OVER THE
DODECANNENE ISLANDS, CARAMANLIS EMPHASIZED THAT IF THREATS AGAINST
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THE ISLAND EVER MATERIALIZED A PROPER ANSWER WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT GREECE IS ALWAYS PREPARED "FOR AN HONEST DIALOGUE AT ANY LEVEL FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE BILATERAL DIFFERENCES." THE MEDIA ALSO HIGHLIGHTED COMMENTS BY FORMER TURKISH PREMIER ECEVIT WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WERE CRITICAL OF THE DEMIEREL GOVERNMENT FOR CREATING A MISUNDERSTANDING OVER THE STATUS OF THE ISLANDS. ECEVIT'S REMARKS WERE REPRINTED IN SOME DETAIL

2. EVENTS IN NEW YORK CONNECTED WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OF THE AEGEAN DISPUTE LIKEWISE WERE FEATURED. THE DEGREE OF OPTIMISM WHICH CAME THROUGH IN THE REPORTING YESTERDAY WANED SOMEWHAT IN THE PRESENTATION TODAY AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUED POSTPONEMENT OF THE UNSC MEETING AND OF THE REVISIONS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE AEGEAN PROBLEM. THE PRESS TODAY, NVERTHELESS, IS REMARKABLE FOR THE LACK OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT EXPRESSED WITH REGARD TO ALLEGATIONS OF US PRO-TURKISH SENTIMENT OR THAT THE US IS SUPPORTING TURKEY IN THE BEHIND-THE-SCENE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL

3. OTHER RELATED STORIES ACCORDED PROMINENT TREATMENT INCLUDE WIDE PLAY FOR DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CARTER'S MESSAGE TO THE GREEK-AMERICAN AHEPA MEETING IN HOUSTON, WHICH WAS PORTRAYED AS STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF GREECE, AND THE CALL OF THE COMMUNIST

PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR (EKK - EXTERIOR) FOR A COMMON POLICY OF ALL PARTIES DURING THIS PERIOD OF CRISIS. THE KKE-EXTERIOR PROPOSED THAT GREECE ADOPT AN AUTONOMOUS FOREIGN POLICY OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, WITHDRAW FROM THE NATO MILITARY WING, CLOSE DOWN ALL US-NATO MILITARY BASES, IMPLEMENT A DEMOCRATIC POLICY OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE HOME FRONT, ENDEAVOR TO KEEP PEACE IN THE AEGEAN AND RESOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN. CARAMANLIS' MEETING WITH OPPOSITION EDA LEADER ILIOU AND PRESIDENT TSATSOS RECEIVING COMMUNIST LEADERS KYRKOS (KKE-INTERIOR) AND DRAKOPOULOS (KKE-EXTERIOR) WERE SIMILARLY NOTED THROUGHOUT THE PRESS.

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